



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PROJECT CEASEFIRE
MEXICO, KC, INDEPENDENCE MEN INDICTED
FOR ILLEGAL FIREARMS

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man, an Independence, Mo., man and a Mexican national residing in Kansas City were indicted by a federal grand jury today, in separate and unrelated cases, for illegally possessing firearms. The indictments, Graves said, are part of Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

* **Manuel Avila-Ramos**, 30, a Mexican national living in Kansas City, was charged in a three-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City.

Count One of the federal indictment alleges that **Avila-Ramos** was illegally in the United States on Sept. 29, 2005, after having been previously deported.

Count Two of the federal indictment alleges that **Avila-Ramos** was an illegal alien in possession of a firearm on Sept. 29, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any illegal alien to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. The indictment alleges that **Avila-Ramos** was in possession of a Lorcin .380-caliber semi-automatic pistol.

Count Three of the federal indictment alleges that **Avila-Ramos**, having a previous conviction, also was a felon in possession of a firearm on Sept. 29, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

* **Jose A. Radillo**, 24, of Kansas City, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being a felon in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Radillo**, having a previous felony conviction, illegally possessed a Glock .40-caliber pistol on June 25, 2005. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rudolph R. Rhodes, IV. It was investigated by the Missouri State Highway Patrol and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

* **Jose Lopez-Lopez**, 41, of Independence, was charged in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury in Kansas City with being an unlawful user of a controlled substance in possession of a firearm.

The federal indictment alleges that **Lopez-Lopez** illegally possessed a Hopkins & Allen Arms Company revolver with ammunition on Sept. 29, 2005, while also being a user of methamphetamine. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any user or addict to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Jackson County Drug Task Force, the Independence, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Graves cautioned that the charges contained in these indictments are simply accusations and not evidence of guilt. Evidence supporting the charges must be presented to a federal trial jury, whose duty is to determine guilt or innocence.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html